

# **PREVALENCE OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS AMONG CHINESE NURSING HOME HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

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**BACKGROUND:** Influenza vaccination (IV) in nursing home health care workers (nHCWs) can reduce mortality of nursing home older adults. There is no study examining the prevalence of IV in Chinese nHCWs.

**METHODS:** Self-reported anonymous questionnaires based on Health Belief Model were distributed to nHCWs of 58 Hong Kong nursing homes.

**RESULTS:** A total of 1398 questionnaires were distributed and 1300 were returned (response rate, 93%). Of all respondents, 55.9% (n=727) received IV; 37.6% (n=489) of respondents believed IV was “non-efficacious” or “don’t know” about efficacy, and 41.2% (n=536) of respondents perceived side-effects of IV to be “severe/moderate” or “don’t know” about side-effects. Multivariate analysis showed that nHCWs were less likely than others to receive IV if they (i) perceived IV as “non-efficacious”, (ii) “don’t know” about efficacy, (iii) perceived side-effects as “severe/moderate”, (iv) “don’t know” about side-effects, (v) perceived influenza infection as “mild/not severe”, (vi) “don’t know” about severity of influenza infection, (vii) were not worry of contracting influenza in the coming 12 months, and (viii) had never vaccinated in the past. On the other hand, nHCWs who aged 50 to 59 years and aged  $\geq 60$  years were more likely than others to receive IV.

**CONCLUSION:** The prevalence of IV among Chinese nHCWs was 55.9%. Inadequate knowledge regarding the efficacy and side-effects of IV were major barriers of receiving IV. Enhanced promotion strategies on IV should be implemented to address the knowledge gap and improve the vaccination rate.